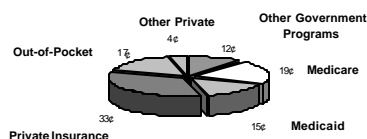


WHO WE ARE AND WHAT WE DO



Children are the focus of many HHS programs.

The Nation's Health Care Dollar 1998



Source: HCFA/OACT

The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) is the United States government's principal agency whose mission is to enhance the health and well being of Americans. HHS accomplishes its mission by providing leadership in the administration of programs to improve the health and well being of Americans and to maintain the United States as a world leader in biomedical and public health sciences.

The Department manages more than 300 programs covering a wide spectrum of activities that impact all Americans, whether through direct services, the benefits of advances in science, or information that helps them to live better and to make healthy choices. These programs include:

- Conducting and sponsoring medical and social science research,
- Preventing outbreak of infectious disease including immunization services and eliminating environmental health hazards,
- Assuring food and drug safety,
- Providing health insurance for elderly and disabled Americans, health insurance for low-income people, and health insurance for children,
- Providing financial assistance and employment support/services for low-income families,
- Facilitating child support enforcement,
- Improving maternal and infant health,
- Ensuring pre-school education and services,
- Preventing child abuse and domestic violence,
- Preventing and treating substance abuse and treatment and
- Providing services for older Americans, including home-delivered meals.

In addition to the services they deliver, the HHS programs provide for equitable treatment of beneficiaries nationwide, and they facilitate the collection of national health and other data for research and publication.

Many of the goals, objectives, and activities of programs administered by HHS are shared within HHS and they also complement those of other federal agencies, and many state and local governments, as well as private organizations. Often the people being served are the same or similar. Because of this shared purpose, HHS works closely with its partners to accomplish its programs.

- HHS is the largest grant-making agency in the federal government, providing over 59,000 grants to states, among others, in the amount of more than \$158 billion per year (per the latest FY 1998 information). This is nearly 60% of all Federal grants awarded annually.
- More than \$8 out of every \$10 appropriated to a leading medical research organization of HHS funds more than 50,000 investigators that are affiliated with some 2,000 university, hospital and other research facilities.
- A nationwide network of 700 community and migrant health centers plus programs for the homeless and residents of public housing, served 8.7 million uninsured, underserved Americans as of 1998.
- Another nationwide network includes the states, 655 Area Agencies on Aging, 225 Indian Tribal organizations, and 2 organizations serving Native Hawaiians. It is responsible for assessing the needs of older persons, coordinating existing resources with the more than 27,000 service providers and developing new resources to meet local priorities for services to the elderly.
- Nearly 40,000 providers of health care are certified to provide Medicare services and 21,500 employees of 56 Medicare contractors have primary responsibility for processing Medicare claims.
- Some 1,327,000 community volunteers now help to provide comprehensive development services for low-income, preschool children ages three to five.

The Department collaborates and coordinates on common issues and problems with other federal agencies, for example:

- Coordination on the Medicare and Medicaid programs with Social Security Administration (SSA),
- Coordination with the Departments of Agriculture and Education for health insurance enrollment outreach and the Department of Justice on health insurance integrity issues,
- Coordination on drug control with the Office of National Drug Control Policy and Departments of Education, Justice, Treasury, Housing and Urban Development, and Transportation,
- Collaboration between HHS and Labor to implement Welfare to Work, and
- Cooperation on the Head Start program with Education.

	1997	1998
Poverty Rate for the United States	13.3%	12.7%
Number of Poor People	35.6 million	34.5 million
Number of Poor Children under age 18	14.1 million	13.5 million

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

	HEALTH STATISTICS				
	1990	1995	1996	1997	1998
National Health Expenditures (\$billions)	699	994	1,043	1,092	NA
Persons without Health Insurance (percent)	3.91	15.4	15.6	16.1	16.3
Days of Hospital Care per 1,000 persons	792	630	606	NA	NA

Source: U.S. Census Bureau 11/99

NA = Not Available